



We see the world
through Black eyes

The racism of neglect

The Portland School Board spent three hours on Monday night attempting to determine whether several communities in the Madison district had really reached a consensus of opinion on plans for attendance changes in their elementary schools. The final outcome of the discussion was to ask the area office to provide evidence that the community has been informed of possible effects in other schools and that it is in agreement with the plan.

No such consideration was given to the parents of students of Boise and King schools. Board member Jonathan Newman has proposed a plan to halt increasing Black enrollment at Jefferson, which is now at 45.8 percent. This plan, if adopted by the Board, will prevent students at Boise and King attendance areas who live in the Jefferson area from attending Jefferson. Worse than that, it assigns them to no high school.

Where in this large school district is there a neighborhood that doesn't have a high school? Although the student might not choose to attend the high school serving the area in which he lives, he does have that option. These Boise and King area students will not have that option -- they must look for a high school somewhere else.

And it's not as simple as it sounds -- they cannot go to any high school which has over the district's average of minorities -- 18 percent.

This means these students cannot go to Adams, Grant or Washington...and in a few years they won't be able to go to Madison or Lincoln. And to top it all off...this will be called "voluntary desegregation".

Another prediction of many Black citizens will also come to pass. The highly financed magnet programs at Jefferson will no longer be open to Black students because their enrollment will be kept to the district average, currently 18 percent.

What is the difference between these two communities? Why are the opinions of the parents in the Madison district so important when the parents of Boise-King are ignored?

This is a very simple case of racism through neglect. The district must desegregate its schools. Jefferson is over 51% minority and apparently the magnet programs are not bringing in enough white students to keep the percentage below the State's requirement of 50%. The alternative -- no more Blacks.

Desegregation is essential. We don't quarrel with that. But we would like to see less commitment to numerical percentages and more attention to individual children.

Perhaps the parents and citizens of the Black community should be consulted about the desegregation process. We would like to know what happens to these children. What preparations are made in the receiving schools; what demands are made on receiving school staff; what educational and social benefits accrue to these students who year after year bear the burden of the district's desegregation program?

Mandatory sentencing perpetuates racism

Among the bills currently being considered by the Oregon State Senate, are three bills that would require mandatory minimum sentences. HB 2013 would allow the sentencing judge to set a mandatory minimum prison sentence equal to one-half of the maximum sentence in all felony convictions.

HB 3041 would require mandatory minimum prison sentences for all crimes where the defendant was in possession of a gun during the crime. This legislation also contains an escalator clause that would increase the required prison term for each subsequent offense: 2 years for the first offense; 5 years for the second offense; 10 years for the third offense; and life imprisonment for the fourth offense.

HB 2011 would impose a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty years for certain types of murder and life sentence without possibility of parole for other types of murder.

The stated purpose for these bills is to reduce crime, both by imposing a threat of penalty that would deter the potential criminal and by putting away repeaters.

Much of the general public believes that crime is committed by a few "career criminals". Actually, 54 percent of the felonies in Oregon are committed by juveniles. Of 100 felonies reported to the police, there are only 19.4 arrests, resulting in less than one prison commitment. Of those sentenced to adult penal institutions, 64% have no prior record. When you include white collar crime and crimes against family and friends, the so-called "career criminal" is of minuscule threat to the general public.

These statistics demonstrate that longer prison sentences will have little effect as a crime deterrent.

The effect passage of the bills would have, in addition to the need to build several maximum security prisons, would be destruction of those committed to the prison.

Since, according to the Oregon Constitution, incarceration is for the purpose of rehabilitation, the ideal for most offenders would be a short term crash program to become self-sufficient and productive. This would have to include counseling, medical care, education and vocational training as well as drug or alcohol treatment. The prisoner would have to know that "rehabilitation" would mean release.

This is not the case in Oregon. The people have not seen fit to fund a system that might have some potential for success.

The only effect long terms without hope for early release will have is to increase the frustration and hopelessness of the long-term prisoners. There would be no reason for long-term prisoners to cooperate with prison officials or to participate in the few programs that are offered. Their presence would be detrimental to the short-term prisoners, so they would have to be separated and "warehoused" in maximum security prisons. None of this could be of any benefit to them or to society when they are finally released.

The other effect of mandatory minimum sentences would be to further punish those who are at the mercy of incompetent attorneys, since those who are properly represented would have a far better chance of avoiding conviction.

The bills would also perpetrate the racism now existing in the judicial system. At least the Black defendant who gets a forty or fifty year sentence to the prison due to institutional or overt racism has a chance for parole. If these bills are passed, we will find the prisons filled with Black men who never had the opportunity for fair treatment by the judicial system.

From the Legislature

by Rep. Gretchen Kalenky

House Joint Resolution 68 -- Minority Report #1 -- passed the Oregon House last Wednesday by a vote of 41 to 18. The bill, an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, will now be considered by the Senate Committee on Revenue and School Finance. Some of the major features of the bill include the creation of tax bases for each school district based on "net operating expenditures." These tax bases would be in effect if the provisions

of HJR 68 are adopted by the people in a special election proposed for November 8, 1977.

HJR 68 would provide a school district with an operating budget, but would prohibit excess expenditures without approval of local voters. State Basic School Support monies would be used as an offset to the tax base, thus assisting the local district in lowering property taxes.

The Senate also is considering House

Bill 3209, which would revise the Basic School Support formula and increase the level of state aid. There is disagreement regarding the formula to be used for equalization. Currently, basic school support monies are distributed to districts on the basis of 80 percent for pupil costs and 20 percent for equalization. Proponents of HB 3209 would like a greater percent of state monies to be used for equalization between "wealthy districts" and "poor districts."

Pro and Con: U.S. withdrawal from Korea

WASHINGTON -- Despite the fears of some senior members of Congress, President Carter is continuing with his plan to withdraw U.S. ground troops from South Korea.

Last month a largely sympathetic House subcommittee heard from Major General John K. Singlaub, the top military officer in South Korea who was removed from his post by Carter for telling a reporter that the administration's withdrawal plan would lead to a new war.

But the same day Singlaub was testifying on Capitol Hill, Carter envoys were telling South Korean President Park Chung Hee that the President was determined to remove U.S. ground forces from South Korea within the next four or five years. U.S. Air Force squadrons will remain in the country.

The House Armed Services Committee is expected to ask members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to give their opinions of the Carter plan later this month. But technically, the withdrawal would not require congressional approval and those opposing it would have to light a backfire of public opinion to keep the troops in South Korea.

Should U.S. ground forces be withdrawn?

Pro: Airpower Sufficient

South Korea's population is more than twice as large as North Korea's (34.6 million vs. 16.3) and her economy is four times as prosperous.

In defending his plan last month, President Carter pointed out that South Korea has "massive, very healthy indus-

tries in steel, shipbuilding, electronics, chemical industries.

And they have a much greater access to the Western industrialized democracies for advanced equipment and technology."

The President's supporters argue that the vital U.S. contribution to South Korea's defense is airpower, which can be rapidly reinforced by other U.S. air units in the Pacific.

The air power will provide both a symbol of the U.S. security guarantee and significant military assistance in case of attack. And perhaps more important, the air units would avoid the risk of automatically entrapping the United States in any new conflict.

If North Korea today were to mass its numerically superior tanks and planes to plunge across the border toward the South Korean capital of Seoul, only 30 miles south, the 14,000 men of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division would be blocking their path.

The President would have only a short time -- if any -- to decide whether to commit the force or withdraw it. Careful weighing of the options and consultation with congress probably would be impossible.

Carter's supporters in Congress argue that such automatic involvement in support of South Korea is especially dangerous because the U.S. public would not support another Asian war, particularly not one for the government of Park Chung Hee.

"The American people will not tolerate our fighting another land war in Korea," insists Representative James P. Johnson (R-Colo.). "So why do we not accept that

fact and get on with the gradual withdrawal?"

Calling the Park regime "one of the most vicious, one of the most corrupt regimes in the post-World War II era," Representative John Krebs (D-Calif.) also supported the move "to signal to the rest of the world that we mean what we say when we talk about human rights."

Con: Deterrent Symbol

Opponents of troop withdrawal claim that the continued presence of the U.S. 2nd Division in South Korea is crucial as a symbol of the U.S. commitment to that country. They contend that air units based well south of the border do not suffice as such a deterrent symbol.

"The North Korean high command appreciates that with air unit out of 'harm's way', it would take a deliberate, agonizing U.S. national decision to commit them to battle," argues retired Army General G. Stilwell, former chief of the Korean command.

When he testified on Capitol Hill last month, General Singlaub noted that the 2nd Division is strategically placed close enough to the border to deter the North Koreans but far enough from the projected front line that it would not automatically become entangled in combat at the very outset.

Singlaub maintained that the President would retain full freedom to weigh his options and commit the force or not as he chose.

Opponents also argue that South Korea, Japan and other U.S. allies in Asia would be likely to infer from a ground force withdrawal that the United States was wavering in its commitment to South Korea. They vividly remember the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam and the refusal to provide even ammunition during the final North Vietnamese offensive in 1975.

And although opponents do not condone the domestic repression of the Park regime, nor dismiss the importance of human rights as a U.S. foreign policy interest, they feel the strategic risks of a Korean withdrawal outweigh the moral and political benefits of cutting off Park.

"The issue is the security of the United States and the strength of its alliances with those friendly countries in the Pacific basin," argued Representative David C. Treen (R-La.) in opposing the troop withdrawal. "I do not say the issue of human rights as a U.S. foreign policy interest, they feel the strategic risks of a Korean withdrawal outweigh the moral and political benefits of cutting off Park."

"The issue is the security of the United States and the strength of its alliances (with those friendly countries in the Pacific basin)," argued Representative David C. Treen (R-La.) in opposing the troop withdrawal. "I do not say the issue of human rights is a different issue. I do not think we should cloud the issue of American Security with that kind of side issue."

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North and South Korea



The 14,000-man U.S. 2nd Infantry Division is stationed north of Seoul. U.S. Phantom jets are based at Osan and Kunsan.

Letters to the Editor

McCready pleads not guilty

To The Editor:

I am responding to an article entitled "Gilcrease resignation multiplies conspiracy" in the Portland Observer of May 26, 1977. I would like the opportunity to clarify some information in that article.

You state that, "There are also indications that the powerplay extends beyond the PMSC Board to the local government level, involving City Commissioner, Connie McCready."

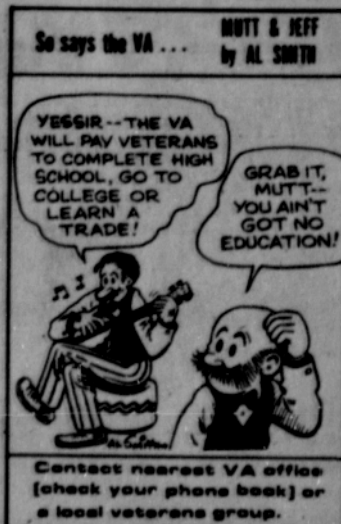
In fact, at the meeting you mention in the same article, I made every attempt to make it clear that I was not going to get involved in the decision-making of the Board despite the requests that were made to me by Board members to do just that. Yes, I was asked to take action and I said, "It's not my position to do so, it's the Board's."

As you know from the letter written to me by Cleveland Gilcrease and published in your edition of May 17, 1977, he requested that we meet together. No sooner did I get that letter on my desk than the press was calling me asking for a response to his resignation. Then a day later they were calling me to ask my response to the Board's request that he stay. I felt that the fairest way to comment in these cases was to do so based on knowledge, and that the appropriate way to find out what was happening was to call on the people we appointed to sit on the PMSC Board. I invited the county

as well as city representatives, with Chairman Clark's and Mayor Goldschmidt's agreement, because most of our city appointees were quite recently named.

My highest priority for PMSC and the people who deserve its services is that the best possible use of the money is achieved. As long as I am voting on whether to appropriate money to PMSC I will take that responsibility seriously and so what I can to make sure the people's needs are met.

Sincerely,
Connie McCready
Commissioner of Public Works



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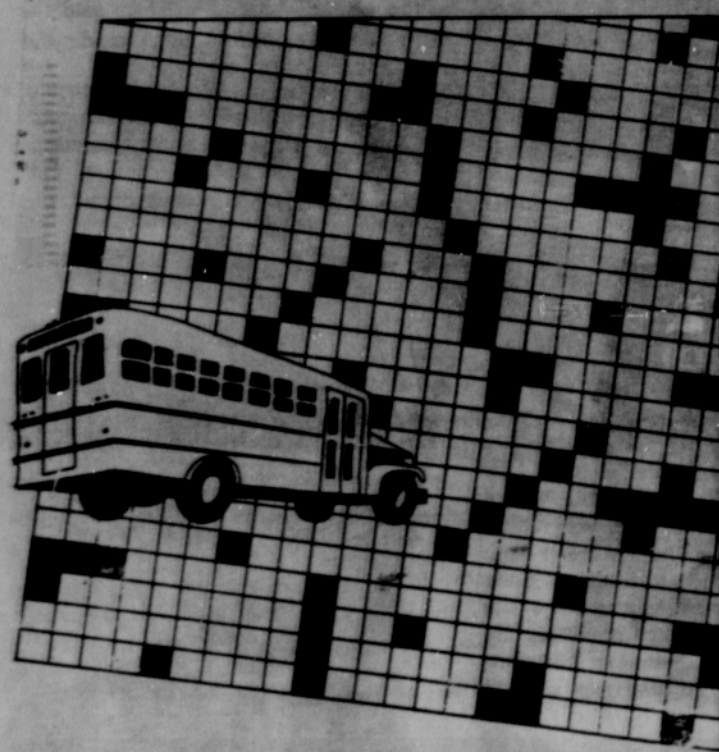
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